



Fast Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL HEALTH

Recognizing the unique health problems and needs of California's culturally diverse population, the Governor established the Office of Multicultural Health (OMH) within the Department of Health Services (DHS) by Executive Order in August 1993. The OMH serves as the focal point for DHS in improving the planning and coordination of activities and programs related to ethnic and racial populations in California. The OMH is organizationally placed in the Director's office and serves as staff to the Task Force on Multicultural Health, which is appointed by the Director.

Mission Statement

The mission of OMH is to increase the capacity of DHS, health care providers, and ethnic and racial communities to reduce gaps in health status among California's diverse populations. The OMH works to:

- Create and strengthen information networks between DHS programs and ethnic and racial communities.
- Promote community participation in decision making related to health issues.
- Build capacity through training, technical assistance, and strategic planning.
- Support the development and dissemination of information, strategies, and resources contributing to the improved health status of California's diverse communities.
- Promote policies and practices that increase the effectiveness of DHS services to diverse communities.

Program Description

Since its establishment in 1993, the OMH has:

- Contributed to the development of California's cultural and linguistic standards for Medi-Cal managed care.
- Established the California Multicultural Health Information Network, which consists of four databases containing information on multicultural programs and community leaders, experts, consultants, and trainers.

- Established strong working relationships with California's ethnic advocacy organizations and many community-based health providers through the Director's Task Force on Multicultural Health.
- Provided assistance to a variety of DHS programs, including Medi-Cal managed care, the Battered Women's Shelter Program, Office of Family Planning, and Public Health Improvement Program.

Contact Information

Californians can obtain more information about the OMH by calling (916) 322-6851, or by writing the OMH at 700 North 10th Street, Suite 110, Sacramento, California 95814.